

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

October 29, 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

LC-8J

<u>CERTIFIED MAIL</u> Receipt No.7009 1680 0000 7674 4102

Gaye Hershberger Advent-Age Products, Inc. 6669 M 72 East Williamsburg, Michigan 49690

Consent Agreement and Final Order In the Matter of
Advent-Age Products, Inc., Docket No. FIFRA-05-2015-0005

Dear Mr. Hershberger:

Enclosed pleased find a copy of a fully executed Consent Agreement and Final Order, in resolution of the above case. This document was filed on October 29, 2014, with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

The civil penalty in the amount of \$500 is to be paid in the manner described in paragraph 28 and 29. Please be certain that the docket number is written on both the transmittal letters and on the check. Payment is due by November 28, 2014, (within 30 calendar days of the filing date).

Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

Merence Bonace

Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section

Enclosures

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 5

In the Matter of:) 1	Docket No. FIFRA-05	-2015-0005
Advent-Age Products, Inc. Williamsburg, Michigan,) Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty) Under Section 14(a) of the Federal) Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide		f the Federal
Respondent.	,	Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136 <i>l</i> (a)	
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Consent Agreement		nd Final Order	OCT 2 9 2014 R
Preliminary		<u>atement</u>	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
			Rr. 6

- 1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a), and Sections 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules) as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.
- The Complainant is the Director of the Land and Chemicals Division, U. S.
 Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5.
- 3. Respondent is Advent-Age Products, Inc., a corporation doing business in the State of Michigan.
- 4. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order (CAFO). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).
- 5. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

6. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty specified in this CAFO, and to the terms of this CAFO.

Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing

- 7. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.
- 8. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided at 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO and its right to appeal this CAFO.
- 9. Respondent certifies that it is complying with FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. §§ 136-136y, by not distributing or selling unregistered pesticides.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

- 10. Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A), states that it is unlawful for any person in any state to distribute or sell to any person any pesticide that is not registered under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.
- 11. The term "distribute or sell" means "to distribute, sell, offer for sale, hold for distribution, hold for sale, hold for shipment, ship, deliver for shipment, release for shipment, or receive and (having so received) deliver or offer to deliver." 7 U.S.C. § 136(gg).
- 12. A "pesticide" is, among other things, any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. 7 U.S.C. § 136(u).
- 13. A "pest" is any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other micro-organism which the Administrator of EPA declares to be a pest under Section 25(c)(1) of FIFRA. 7 U.S.C. § 136(t).
- 14. A substance is considered to be intended for a pesticidal purpose, and thus to be a pesticide requiring registration, if the person who distributes or sells the substance claims, states,

or implies (by labeling or otherwise) that the substance can or should be used as a pesticide.

40 C.F.R. § 152.15(a)(1).

15. The Administrator of EPA may assess a civil penalty against any wholesaler, dealer, retailer, other distributor who violates any provision of FIFRA of up to \$7,500 for each offense that occurred after January 12, 2009, pursuant to Section 14(a)(1) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a)(1), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations

- 16. Respondent is a "person" as defined at Section 2(s) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(s).
- 17. Respondent is a retailer.
- 18. Respondent owned or operated a place of business located at 6669 M-72 East, Williamsburg, Michigan during the calendar years 2013 and 2014.
- 19. On July 25, 2013, an inspector employed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and authorized to conduct inspections under FIFRA conducted an inspection at Respondent's place of business in Williamsburg, Michigan.
- 20. During the July 25, 2013 inspection, the inspector collected photographs of *Sani-Chlorine Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder* which Respondent was holding for distribution or sale.
- 21. Respondent's label for *Sani-Chlorine Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder* photographed on July 25, 2013, states, "Whirlpool and Hydrotherapy Antiseptic Treatment for use with the patient."
- 22. On January 14, 2014, Respondent's web site at www.adventageproducts.com offered Sani-Chlorine Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder for sale, and stated: "Powdered Chlorine for Your Sanitizing Needs" and "Anti-septic."

- 23. Sani-Chlorine Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder is a "pesticide" as defined at Section 2(u) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136(u).
- 24. Respondent offered for sale *Sani-Chlorine Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder* on July 25, 2013 and January 14, 2014.
- 25. Sani-Chlorine Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder is not registered as a pesticide with EPA under Section 3 of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136a.
- 26. Respondent's distribution or sale of the unregistered pesticide *Sani-Chlorine* Whirlpool Antiseptic Powder constitutes an unlawful act pursuant to Section 12(a)(1)(A) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136j(a)(1)(A).

Civil Penalty

- 27. Pursuant to Section 14(a)(4) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a)(4), Complainant determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$500. In determining the penalty amount, Complainant considered the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of Respondent's business, the effect on Respondent's ability to continue in business, and the gravity of the violation. Complainant also considered EPA's FIFRA Enforcement Response Policy, dated December 2009. Respondent made an inability to pay claim and submitted documentation to support that claim.
- 28. Within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent must pay a \$500 civil penalty for the FIFRA violations by sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

U.S. EPA
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
Post Office Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

The check must note Advent-Age Products, Inc. and the docket number of this CAFO.

29. Respondent must send a notice of payment that states Respondent's name and the case docket number to EPA at the following addresses when it pays the penalty:

Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J) U.S. EPA, Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604

Terence Bonace (LC-8J)
Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Maria E. Gonzalez (C-14J) Office of Regional Counsel U.S. EPA, Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604

- 30. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.
- 31. If Respondent does not pay timely the civil penalty, EPA may refer the matter to the Attorney General who will recover such amount by action in the appropriate United States district court under Section 14(a)(5) of FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. § 136*l*(a)(5). The validity, amount and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.
- 32. Pursuant to 31 C.F.R. § 901.9, Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any amount overdue from the date payment was due at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury. Respondent must pay a \$15 handling charge each month that any portion of the penalty is more than 30 days past due. In

addition, Respondent must pay a 6 percent per year penalty on any principal amount 90 days past due.

General Provisions

- 33. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged in the CAFO.
- 34. This CAFO does not affect the rights of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law.
- 35. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with FIFRA and other applicable federal, state and local laws.
- 36. This CAFO is a "final order" for purposes of EPA's FIFRA Enforcement Response Policy.
 - 37. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent, its successors and assigns.
- 38. Each person signing this agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.
 - 39. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorneys' fees, in this action.
 - 40. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

In the Matter of: Advent-Age Products, Inc. Docket No. FIFRA-05-2015-0005

Advent-Age Products, Inc., Respondent

Date 9/10/14

Gaye Hershberger Vice President

Advent-Age Products, Inc.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant

10/17/2014 Date

Margaret M. Guerriero

Director

Land and Chemicals Division

40 M.G.

In the Matter of: Advent-Age Products, Inc. Docket No. FIFRA-05-2015-0005

Final Order

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

10/24/2014 Date

Susan Hedman

Regional Administrator

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 5

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the original signed copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order in resolution of the civil administrative action involving Advent-Age Products, Inc., was filed on October 29, 2014, with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, 60604, and that I mailed by Certified Mail, Receipt No.7009 1680 0000 7674 4102, a copy of the original to the Respondent:

Gaye Hershberger Advent-Age Products, Inc. 6669 M 72 East Williamsburg, Michigan 49690

and forwarded copies (intra-Agency) to:

Ann Coyle, Regional Judicial Officer, ORC/C-14J Maria E. Gonzalez, Regional Judicial Officer, ORC/C-14J Eric Volck, Cincinnati Finance/MWD

Frederick Brown

Pesticides and Toxics Compliance Section

U.S. EPA - Region 5

77 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, Illinois 60604

Docket No.___FIFRA-05-2015-0005